

Issue NE-CW1605, released April 18, 2005, by the Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA . For more information contact us at: 100 Centennial Mall North, Suite 298, Lincoln, NE 68508, 402-437-5541 or e-mail at nass-ne@nass.usda.gov, Internet at <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>.

Agricultural Summary: For the week ending April 17, 2005, wet soils across the state limited spring fieldwork as producers prepared for widespread corn planting, according to USDA’s Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service. Topsoil and subsoil moisture supplies continued above average and a year ago levels. Producer activities included field preparations for planting and livestock care.

Weather Summary: Temperatures averaged from 2 degrees below normal to 6 degrees above. There was light precipitation throughout much of the state, with the heaviest amounts falling in the extreme eastern counties. Soil temperatures in the majority of the state declined with the recent precipitation but still held above the 50 degree threshold for corn germination.

Soil Moisture and Days Suitable:
Nebraska, Week Ending April 17, 2005

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	Average
Percent				
Topsoil				
Very Short	0	3	18	18
Short	18	23	45	30
Adequate	81	71	37	50
Surplus	1	3	0	2
Subsoil				
Very Short	13	18	41	31
Short	32	36	34	39
Adequate	55	46	25	30
Surplus	0	0	0	0
Days Suitable	3.6	5.2	6.2	4.9

Field Crops Report: Wheat conditions rated 1 percent very poor, 4 poor, 30 fair, 52 good, and 13 excellent. Fields were 19 percent jointed, ahead of last year at 14 percent and average of 9.

Corn planting was underway, with 5 percent planted compared to 6 last year and 4 average.

Oats planted increased to 85 percent, ahead of last year at 81 and average of 67. Thirty-three percent had emerged, ahead of 26 last year and average of 24.

Sugar beet planting continued in the west with 21 percent completed, well behind last year at 52.

Alfalfa conditions rated 1 percent very poor, 4 poor, 22 fair, 54 good, and 19 excellent.

Crop Progress : Nebraska, Week Ending April 17, 2005

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	Average
Percent				
Corn Planted	5	0	6	4
Oats Planted	85	73	81	67
Oats Emerged	33	20	26	24
Wheat Jointed	19	9	14	9

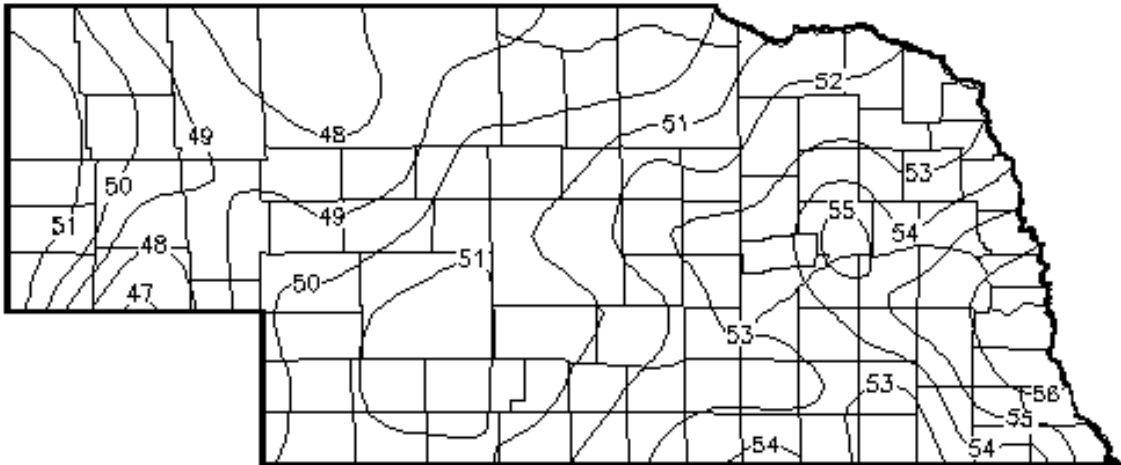
Crop Condition: Nebraska, Week Ending April 17, 2005

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Percent					
Alfalfa	1	4	22	54	19
Wheat	1	4	30	52	13

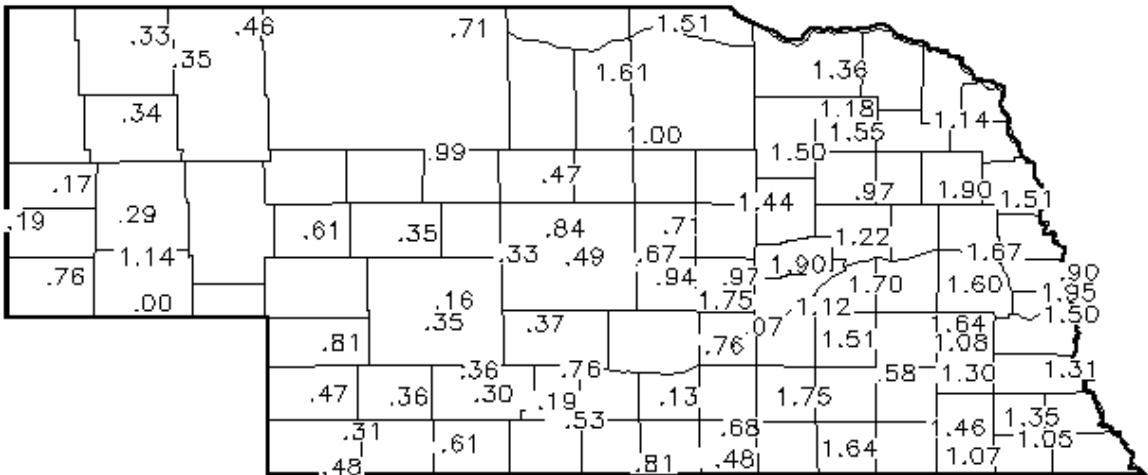
Livestock, Pasture and Range Report: Pasture and range condition rated 1 percent very poor, 9 poor, 42 fair, 43 good, and 5 excellent. Cattle and calf condition rated 1 percent poor, 12 fair, 62 good, and 25 excellent. Spring calving was 87 percent complete with calf losses rated average to below average.

This release is based on data from FSA county directors, county extension educators, NOAA, and the High Plains Climate Center. County comments and reports can be found at: http://www.nass.usda.gov/ne/cropwthr/cmts_cur.htm. For those receiving an e-mail text version of this publication, a complete version including crop progress charts and precipitation maps can be found at: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/ne/cropwthr/2005.htm>.

Average Temperature at the Four Inch Depth Under Bare Soil
April 11 - April 17, 2005



Precipitation in Inches for Week Ending 8:00 a.m. April 17, 2005



Precipitation: By District, Nebraska, April 1 - April 17, 2005

Item	NW	NC	NE	CEN	EC	SW	SC	SE
Total past week	.57	1.31	1.25	.73	1.46	.39	.52	1.23
Total since April 1	1.29	1.85	1.48	1.18	1.65	.46	1.19	2.27
Normal since April 1	.95	1.14	1.37	1.31	1.49	1.02	1.10	1.51
Total as % of normal	138%	164%	107%	89%	111%	45%	109%	151%

Temperature: By District, Nebraska, Week Ending Sunday April 17, 2005

Station		Temperature			
		Extremes		Average	Departure
		High	Low		
NW	Alliance	80	27	47	1
	Scottsbluff	82	27	50	4
	Sidney	75	28	47	0
NC	Ainsworth	81	32	49	-1
	Arthur	80	28	48	-1
	O'Neill	81	33	49	-1
NE	Concord	81	34	52	2
	Elgin	81	35	51	1
	West Point	80	35	54	3
C	Grand Island	81	34	53	2
	Lexington	81	33	51	1
	Ord	81	31	50	0
EC	Lincoln	82	34	57	4
	Central City	82	36	54	3
	Mead	84	31	55	2
SW	Champion	80	28	47	-2
	North Platte	79	30	49	0
	Curtis	79	33	50	1
SC	Smithfield	80	33	51	1
	Minden	81	33	52	2
	Red Cloud	80	31	54	3
SE	Beatrice	81	34	55	3
	Clay Center	80	32	53	3
	Nemaha	82	40	59	6

Sources: High Plains Climate Center and Nebraska State Climate Office.